GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:825
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2005
Pollution due to Immersion of Idols in Rivers/Sea
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether immersion of idols in rivers/sea is a serious threat to the environment ;

(b) if so, whether the Sovernment has assessed the damage done to the livestock and pollution of water by immersion of idols in rivers and sea ;

(c) whether the Sovernment proposes to bring legislation in this regard; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Sovernment in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a)&(b) Studies carried out to assess the change in water quality due to immersion of idols in rivers, lakes and estuaries have revealed that the water quality gets deteriorated in respect of conductivity, bio-chemical oxygen demand and concentration of heavy metals.

(c)&(d) To minimize the pollution due to immersion of idols, guidelines have been evolved by the Central Pollution Control Board(CPCB) suggesting water quality monitoring at three Stages namely; pre-immersion, during immersion and post immersion, identification of adequate number of designated immersion centers, construction of temporary confined ponds/bunds, removal of worship material like flowers, clothes and decorating items for proper disposal and organizing awareness programmes.